



nnjbees.org

August 2012



NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

A Division of The New Jersey Beekeepers Association

President	Frank Mortimer	201-417-7309	Secretary	Open	
V. President	Lynn Paglia	845-558-1921	Treasurer	Karl Schoenknecht	201-891-0947
2 nd V. Pres.	Rich Schluger	201-693-6949	3 rd V. Pres.	Tom Fuscaldo	973-942-5066

Meeting on: **Friday, August 17th at 7:30 PM**, Location: **Ramapo College of NJ, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, N.J 07430**



Bee Enthusiasts & Bee Curious always welcome!



Weather permitting.



August is the last month of our BeeTalk® series where our meetings are dedicated to answering your beekeeping questions. August is an important month for beekeepers. The dearth has arrived and beekeeper questions abound. The honey harvest has begun or will begin soon. Hive treatment options will be discussed. We are here for you. We will do our best to get you opinions from our more experienced members and we will deal with all kinds of situations.

Message from the President:

Hello Fellow Northeast NJ Honey Extractors!

Tis the season to extract honey, and I hope everyone's harvest was successfully extracted and bottled. As a final tally, I ended up with 99 pounds, and for me, that was a sweet and sticky success. As with all of us, I am always learning, and as usual, I learn best from my own mistakes. Once I got my supers home, I realized that my biggest mistake was waiting too long to harvest. I pulled off many frames that I remembered being filled, but had since been emptied by the bees. I realized that I should have pulled my supers off about three weeks earlier. The good news is that if my bees needed it, I was happy that it was there for them. Or at least that is what I kept telling myself so that I would feel better about losing so much of my honey harvest.

Living by myself, and only having my son stay with me every other weekend, I thought I had a great idea. I would turn my dining room into my honey house. One of the benefits/issues of being single and living by yourself is there is no one around to tell you when you are about to make a big mistake. My logic was that I could keep everything clean and in a controlled environment. The sink was close, I had tables, towels, everything I needed, and even more important, I could watch the Olympics on TV while I extracted my honey. Now, my extractor was a gift from a friend, and I think it was manufactured before Eisenhower was first elected. It is a four-frame A.I. Root extractor, and it works great. However, through the years, it has become a bit out of balance. Once I loaded the honey-filled frames into it, I would have to firmly place both my feet on the stand, wrap one arm around it, and start cranking with the other. Once I reached optimum speed, it would start bouncing around, "Thud-Thud-Thud." So the whole experience was one part extracting my honey and two parts riding a mechanical bull. I'm sure I let out more than a few, "Yee Haw's" that day! Also, it was amazing how much honey-flavored wind is generated as I would work to get that A.I. Root up to speed. Once I had finished, I realized that my whole place had the overly-sweet smell of honey, and for the next few days, it was like living inside a giant cotton candy machine.

After I got all the honey into 5-gallon buckets, I strained it through three filters, and it was ready to be bottled. Again, I had all weekend, and I was basically keeping myself busy as I was watching the lesser known Olympic sports like Badminton, Handball and Greco-Roman Synchronized Pole Vaulting. So I decided I would fill my bottles and “pretend” I had my own honey-bottling assembly line. With my left hand, I would hold the bottle under the spigot. With my right hand, I would reach into a box and pull out the next empty bottle. Then, just as the first bottle was just about filled, I would slide the empty bottle under the flow on honey. Then, I would place the filled bottle on the dining room table, and while I was still filling the next bottle with my right hand, I would use my left hand to grab a lid, and screw it on the filled jar of honey sitting on the dining room table. Once I had the lid on, I would switch hands, and hold the jar being filled with my left hand and repeat this process 98 more times. I am happy to report that after about 86 jars, I hardly spilled any more on my floor. Actually, if I could have found a way to bottle what had spilled, I probably would have another 7-8 jars of honey. The good news is that Jersey Fresh honey really brings out the shine in wood floors.

After I had all my honey bottled, I realized the biggest problem with turning your dining room into a honey bottling plant was cleaning up all the honey that is now everywhere in your dining room. When it was all over, I think I spent more time cleaning up than it took the bees to turn nectar into honey. But, in the end, I got 99 jars of honey, from my hives that I extracted myself. And, in one weekend, I spent more time watching the Olympics than most people watch in a lifetime.

After this weekend, maybe I should have named my honey, “Gold Medal Honey.”

Frank Mortimer
President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers

Message from Lynn Paglia:

The nectar flow is over and the dearth is here. You must check your hives to make sure that the bees have enough food since they are eating their stores very rapidly. In addition, robbing is very prevalent this time of year. Leaving your hives open too long for inspection at this time can start a robbing frenzy that ends with the death of many bees and possibly whole hives. It is better to open your hive either in the early morning or early evening since many bees are not yet out flying. Whenever you are inspecting your hives at this time get in, get what you need to do done, and close up the hive. If sugar is spilled on the outside of the hive wipe it off before it attracts other bees. I spoke to Charlie Toth, a very experienced queen breeder and beekeeper in New Jersey a couple of weeks ago. He was telling me that in 15 minutes 10 of his nucleus colonies were wiped out by robbing frenzies. In weaker colonies it helps to use an entrance reducer to help the bees defend the hive. The second thing to think about is treating your colonies for mites. This is best done by the middle of August. The two best options are Apiguard and MAQ strips. Apiguard can only be used if there are no honey supers on the hive and is a 2 week per dose treatment. If you are planning on using Apiguard or MAQ strips be sure to read the temperature guidelines. If they are not used correctly, many bees can die needlessly. MAQ strips are formic acid based and can be applied while feeding and while honey supers are on the hive. Whatever product you decide to use please consider using some mite treatment. Bees loaded with mites are compromised going into winter.

The 2012 Eastern Apiculture Society conference is August 13-18 at the University of Vermont at Burlington. Monday and Tuesday are short course days where many topics will be discussed, and Wed - Saturday are the Conference days. All of the major bee product vendors will be present Wednesday and Thursday in addition to many small vendors. There is so much to be absorbed that by the third day I usually go into brain freeze. It is a very worthwhile event to attend. In conclusion, if your bees are still drawing out honeycomb, feed, feed, feed. At this time of the year they will stop drawing out comb if they are not fed since they will conserve their resources. You must look in your hives to see what is happening, not guess. If the bees are low on food, feed, feed, feed. You don't want your queen to stop laying altogether due to lack of food. We are here to help and answer your questions big or small. That is the great thing about beekeeping; you never stop learning and no two years are ever the same..

Club Happenings:



Be sure to go to our Face book page to see great pics posted by the 500 Facebook fans we have at our page and recent articles in the news about our members.

Remember: <http://www.nnjbees.org> is your website. Check that site for everything Northeast New Jersey Beekeeping!



Next Month: We will be hosting Dr. David Gilley from William Paterson University as our featured speaker. Dr. Gilley is the only academic bee researcher in New Jersey. Read more about Dr. Gilley [here](#).



❖ Volunteers ❖	
Judy and Terry Regan	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
Katie Devitt	Hard mailings for the Newsletter, Club shirts
Rachel Avenia-Prol	Web site creation and training: www.nnjbees.org
Ken Hyman	Built a Warre hive and donated it to the club
Michael Miller	Apparel production, beekeeping instructor
Leigh K. Lydecker	Beekeeping Instructor
Hugh Knowlton	Workshop coordinator and presenter

Thank you all! If any members want to volunteer to help our club please contact me either at the meetings or via [email](#). There is lots to do!



Tom Miller's Hive